

**John McBride Belnap Memorial
Dedicatory Prayer
Sunday, 27 Apr 1997, Ashland, Saunders, Nebraska**

Our Father who art in Heaven. Hallowed be Thy Name.

Father, we are thankful for this day in which Thou hast granted for us to live.

We are grateful for blessings of health, strength, and all blessings of which we enjoy each day.

We are grateful for family members, friends and acquaintances, church leaders and all others who have traveled near and far to share their testimonies and feelings of this special event. Bless them to be able to feel of Thy spirit, to be uplifted this day and in days to come.

We are thankful for this time of year that we can celebrate the sesquicentennial of our forefathers and mothers who crossed the plains and sacrificed much for us and for the freedoms that we enjoy now. We realize that we are the recipient of their persecutions, their strengths, and personal sacrifices. For this we are eternally grateful.

We are indeed thankful that the Pioneers were prepared and strengthened by Thy hand, that through their faith, trials, and persecutions, they were strong enough to complete their journey to the West.

We know dear Father, that we are pioneers of this day. Bless us Father as we endure our own trials and tribulations that we can be made strong—strong enough to be of service, strong enough to be a strength to others and strong enough to be a witness to Thee.

We are humbled at the thought of so many loved ones who gave their lives from diseases, sickness, and hardship for Thee. We are strengthened from the knowledge of knowing they gave their all.

Father, today we are gathered together by one such person: John McBride Belnap. As we erect a memorial to his name, we dedicate this ground to be consecrated and protected from the elements and from harm's way until John rises with the just on the morning of the first resurrection. May this memorial be a source of strength to all who visits within. May their faith be strengthened by his story; to be an inspiration and insight of the sacrifices made.

Bless John's family that we may be strong and, through our faith and diligence, we may become acquainted with Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ our elder brother.

I dedicate and consecrate this ground and memorial by the authority and power of the Melchizedek priesthood and in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dedicatory prayer offered by Les L. Hill, President, Belnap Family Organization